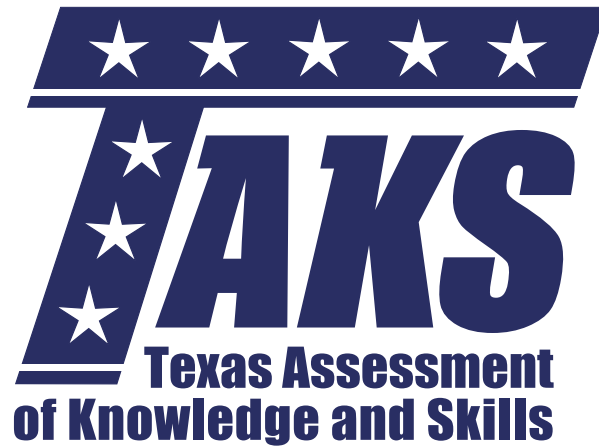


STUDENT NAME _____



GRADE 11
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
MATHEMATICS
SOCIAL STUDIES
SCIENCE

Administered Spring 2003

READING AND WRITTEN COMPOSITION

DIRECTIONS

Read the two selections and the viewing and representing piece. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Miraculous Phonograph Record

by William Saroyan

1 Sometime soon after I was 13 years old in 1921 I rode home from the heart of Fresno with a wind-up Victor phonograph under my arm, hitched above my hipbone, and one Victor record. On a bicycle, that is.

My notes about what I am
reading

2 The bicycle went to pieces from the use I gave it as a Postal Telegraph messenger.

3 The phonograph developed motor trouble soon after my first book was published; and while I was traveling in Europe for the first time, in 1935, it was given to the Salvation Army.

4 But I still have the record, and I have a special fondness for it.

5 The reason I have a special fondness for it is that whenever I listen to it, I remember what happened when I reached home with the phonograph and the record.

6 The phonograph had cost ten dollars and the record 75 cents, both brand new. I had earned the money as a messenger in my first week of work, plus four dollars and twenty-five cents not spent.

7 My mother had just got home from Guggenheim's, where, judging from the expression on her face, she had been packing figs in eight-ounce packs, which I knew was the weight and size that was least desired by the packers, because a full day of hard work doing eight-ounce packs, at so much per pack, meant only about a dollar and a half, or at the most two dollars, whereas, if they were packing four-ounce packs, they could earn three and sometimes even four dollars which in those days was good money, and welcome, especially as the work at Guggenheim's, or at any of the other dried-fruit packinghouses such as Rosenberg's or Inderrieden's, was seasonal, and the season was never long.

8 When I walked into the house, all excited, with the phonograph hitched to my hip, my mother gave me a look that suggested an eight-ounce day. She said nothing, however, and I said nothing, as I placed the phonograph on the round table in the parlor, checked it for any accidents to exposed parts that might have happened in transit, found none, lifted the record from the turntable where the girl in the store had fixed it with two big rubber bands, examined both sides of it, and noticed that my mother was watching. While I was still cranking the machine, she spoke at last,

softly and politely, which I knew meant she didn't like the looks of what was going on. She spoke in Armenian.

My notes about what I am
reading

- 9 "Willie, what is that you have there?"
- 10 "This is called a phonograph."
- 11 "Where did you get this phonograph?"
- 12 "I got it from Sherman, Clay, on Broadway."
- 13 "The people at Sherman, Clay—did they *give* you this phonograph?"
- 14 "No, I paid for it."
- 15 "How much did you pay, Willie?"
- 16 "Ten dollars."
- 17 "Ten dollars is a lot of money in this family. Did you *find* the ten dollars in the street perhaps?"
- 18 "No, I got the ten dollars from my first week's pay as a Postal Telegraph messenger. And 75 cents for the record."
- 19 "And how much money have you brought home for the whole family—for rent and food and clothing—out of your first week's pay?"
- 20 "Four dollars and twenty-five cents. My pay is fifteen dollars a week."
- 21 Now, the record is on the machine, and I am about to put the needle to the revolving disc when I suddenly notice that I had better forget it and get out of there, which I do, and just in time too. The screen door of the back porch slams once for me, and then once for my mother.
- 22 As I race around the house, I become aware of two things: (1) that it's a beautiful evening, and (2) that Levon Kemalyan's father, who is a very dignified man, is standing in front of his house across the street with his mouth a little open, watching. Well, he's an elder at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church; he isn't from Bitlis, as we are; he's not a Saroyan, and this sort of thing comes as a surprise to him. Surely Takoohi Saroyan and her son are not racing around their house for exercise, or in an athletic contest of some kind, so why are they running?
- 23 In a spirit of neighborliness I salute Mr. Kemalyan as I race to the front porch and back into the parlor, where I quickly put needle to disc, and hurry to the dining room, from whence I can both witness the effect of the music on my mother, and, if necessary, escape to the back porch, and out into the yard again.
- 24 The music of the record begins to come from the machine just as my mother gets back into the parlor.

25 For a moment it looks as if she is going to ignore the music and continue the chase, and then suddenly it happens—the thing that makes the record something to cherish forever.

26 My mother comes to a halt, perhaps only to catch her breath, perhaps to listen to the music—there’s still no way of telling for sure.

27 As the music moves along, I can’t help noticing that my mother either is too tired to run anymore or is actually listening. And then I notice that she is *very definitely* listening. I watch her turn from the chase to the machine. I watch her take one of the six cane chairs that have remained in the family from the time of my father, from 1911, and move it to the round table. I watch her sit down. I notice now that her expression no longer suggests that she is tired and angry. I remember the man in the Bible who was mad and was comforted by somebody playing a harp. I stand in the doorway to the parlor, and when the record ends I go to the machine, lift the needle from the disc and stop the motor.

28 Without looking at me, my mother says, this time in English, “All right, we keep this.” And then in softly spoken Armenian, “Play it again, I beg of you.”

29 I quickly give the crank a few spins and put needle to disc again.

30 This time when the needle comes to the end of the record my mother says, “Show me how it’s done.” I show her, and she starts the record a third time for herself.

31 Well, of course the music *is* beautiful, but only a moment ago she had been awfully mad at me for what she had felt had been the throwing-away of most of my week’s wages for some kind of ridiculous piece of junk. And then she had heard the music; she had got the message, and the message had informed her that not only had the money *not* been thrown away, it had been wisely invested.

32 She played the record six times while I sat at the table in the dining room looking through a small catalogue of records given to me free of charge by the girl at Sherman, Clay, and then she said, “You have brought home only the one record?”

33 “Well, there’s another song on the other side.”

34 I went back to the machine, turned the record over, and put it in place.

35 “What is this other one?”

36 “Well, it’s called ‘Song of India.’ I’ve never heard it. At

the store I listened only to the first one, which is called ‘Cho-Cho-San.’”

My notes about what I am
reading

37 “What is the meaning of *that*—‘Cho-Cho-San’?”

38 “It’s just the name of the song, I guess. Would you like to hear the other one, ‘Song of India’?”

39 “I beg of you.”

40 Now, as the other members of the family came home, they heard music coming from the parlor, and when they went in they saw the brand-new phonograph, and my mother sitting on the cane chair, directly in front of it, listening.

41 Why wouldn’t that record be something I would want to keep as long as possible, and something I deeply cherish? Almost instantly it had won over my mother to art, and for all I know marked the point at which she began to suspect that her son rightfully valued some things higher than he valued money, and possibly even higher than he valued food, drink, shelter and clothing.

42 A week later she remarked to everybody during supper that the time had come to put some of the family money into a second record, and she wanted to know what was available. I got out the catalogue and went over the names, but they meant nothing to her, so she told me to just go to the store and pick out something *hrashali*, the Armenian word for miraculous, which I was happy to do.

43 Now, as I listen to the record again, 42 years later, and try to guess what happened, I think it was the banjo beat that got my mother, that spoke directly to her as if to one long known, deeply understood, and totally loved; the banjo chords just back of the clarinet that remembered everything gone, accepted everything present, and waited for anything more still to come, echoing in and out of the story of the Japanese girl betrayed by the American sailor, the oboe saying words and the saxophone choking on swallowed emotion: “Fox Trot (On Melodies by G. Puccini, arranged by Hugo Frey) Paul Whiteman and His Orchestra. 18777-A.”

44 After that, whenever other members of the family attacked me for some seeming eccentricity, my mother always patiently defended me until she lost her temper, whereupon she shouted, “He is not a businessman, thank God.”

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Letter That Changed My Life

by Dennis Smith



Photo courtesy of © CORBIS.

1 I was not yet 30 years old and was working as a firefighter in the South Bronx's Engine Co. 82, probably the world's most active firehouse at the time. It was warm and sunny, the kind of leisurely Sunday that brought extra activity to the neighborhood and to its firefighters. We must have had 15 or 20 calls that day, the worst being a garbage fire in the rear of an abandoned building, which required a hard pull of 600 feet of cotton-jacketed hose.

2 Between alarms I would rush to the company office to read Captain Gray's copy of the *Sunday New York Times*. It was late in the afternoon when I finally got to the *Book Review* section. As I read it, my blood began to boil. An article blatantly stated what I took to be a calumny—that William Butler Yeats, the Nobel Prize-winning

light of the Irish Literary Renaissance, had transcended his Irishness and was forever to be known as a universal poet.

3 There were few things I was more proud of than my Irish heritage, and ever since I first picked up a book of his poems from a barracks shelf when I was in the military, Yeats had been my favorite Irish writer, followed by Sean O'Casey and James Joyce.

4 My ancestors were Irish farmers, fishermen and blue-collar workers, but as far as I can tell, they all had a feeling for literature. It was passed on to my own mother, a telephone operator, who hardly ever sat down without a book in her hands. And at that moment my own fingernails might have been soiled with the soot of the day's fires, but I felt as prepared as any Trinity don to stand up in the court of public opinion and protest. Not only that Yeats had lived his life and written his poetry through the very essence of his Irish sensibility, but that it was offensive to think Irishness—no matter if it was psychological, social or literary—was something to be transcended.

5 My stomach was churning, and I determined not to let an idle minute pass. "Hey, Captain Gray. Could I use your typewriter?" I asked.

6 The typewriter was so old that I had to use just one finger to type, my strongest one, even though I could type with all ten. I grabbed the first piece of clean paper I

■ see Letter, page 2

could find—one that had the logo of the Fire Department of the City of New York across the top—and, hoping there would be a break in the alarms for 20 minutes or so, wrote out a four-paragraph letter of indignation to the editor of the *Sunday Book Review*.

7 Throughout his poetry, I postulated, Yeats yearned for a messiah to lead Ireland out from under the bondage of English rule, and his view of the world and the people in it was fundamentally Irish.

8 Just as I addressed the envelope, the final alarm of my tour came in, and as I slid down the long brass pole, I felt unexpectedly calm, as if a great rock had been purged from the bottom of my stomach.

9 I don't know why I felt it my obligation to safeguard the reputation of the world's greatest poet, at least next to Homer and Shakespeare, or to inscribe an apologia for Irish writing. I just knew that I had to write that letter, in the same way a priest has to pray, or a musician has to play an instrument.

10 Until that point in my life I had not written much of value—a few poems and short stories, the beginning of a coming-of-age novel. I knew that my writing was anything but refined. Like a beginning artist who loves to draw, I understood that the more one draws, or writes, or does anything, the better the end result will be, and so I wrote often to better control my writing skills, to master them. I sent some material to various magazines and reviews but found no one willing to publish me.

11 It was a special and unexpected delight, then, when I learned something I'd written would finally see print. Ironically it wasn't one of my poems or

short stories—it was my letter to the *Times*. I suppose the editor decided to publish it because he was first attracted by the official nature of my stationery (was his staff taking smoke breaks out on the fire escape?), and then by the incongruity of a ghetto firefighter's using words like *messianism*, for in the lines below my letter it was announced that I was a New York City firefighter. I'd like to think, though, that the editor silently agreed with my thesis.

I remember receiving through the fire department's address about 20 sympathetic and congratulatory letters from professors around the country. These letters made me feel like I was not only a published writer but an opinion maker. It was as if I was suddenly thrust into being someone whose views mattered.

I also received a letter from *True* magazine and one from *The New Yorker*, asking for an interview. It was the latter that proved momentous, for when an article titled "Fireman Smith" appeared in that magazine, I received a telephone call from the editor of a large publishing firm who asked if I might be interested in writing a book about my life.

I had little confidence in my ability to write a whole book, though I did intuit that my work as a firefighter was a worthy subject. And so I wrote *Report from Engine Co. 82* in six months, and it went on to sell two million copies and to be translated into 12 languages. In the years that followed, I wrote three more best-sellers, and last year published a memoir, *A Song for Mary: An Irish-American Memory*.

■ see Letter, page 3

15 Being a writer had been far from my expectations; being a best-selling author was almost unfathomable. How had it happened? I often found myself thinking about it, marveling at it, and my thoughts always came back to that letter to the *New York Times*.

16 For me, the clearest explanation is that I had found the subject I was searching for, one I felt so strongly about that the writing was a natural consequence of the passion I felt. I was to feel this same kind of passion when I began writing about firefighters and, later, when writing about my mother. These are subjects that, to me, represent the great values of human life—decency, honesty and fairness—subjects that burn within me as I write.

17 Over the years, all five of my children have come to me periodically with one

dilemma or another. Should I study English or art? Should I go out for soccer or basketball? Should I take a job with this company or that one?

My answer is always the same, yet they still ask, for reassurance is a good and helpful thing. Think about what you're feeling deep down in the pit of your stomach, I tell them, and measure the heat of the fire there, for that is the passion that will flow through your heart. Your education and your experience will guide you toward making a right decision, but your passion will enable you to make a difference in whatever you do.

That's what I learned the day I stood up for Ireland's greatest poet.

18

19

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**Use “The Miraculous Phonograph Record” (pp. 4–7)
to answer questions 1–12.**

- 1 Read the following dictionary entry.

fix \ˈfiks\ *v* **1.** to stabilize **2.** to capture the attention of **3.** to get ready for **4.** to repair or mend

Which definition best matches the use of the word *fixed* in paragraph 8?

- A Definition 1
- B Definition 2
- C Definition 3
- D Definition 4

- 2 At first Mrs. Saroyan is upset about her son’s purchase because —

- F she is distrustful of new inventions
- G she thinks he took time away from his job to shop
- H she does not have time to listen to music
- J she believes it is a foolish investment

- 3 Paragraph 7 is mainly about —

- A the varying weights and sizes of fig packs
- B the different dried-fruit packinghouses that offer work
- C the effect of the length of the fig season on Mrs. Saroyan
- D the fluctuations in how much Mrs. Saroyan earns at work

- 4 When Mrs. Saroyan requests a second record, she asks Willie to —

- F get a better deal than he got on his first purchase
- G make sure that the songs on it are wonderful
- H return the first record he purchased
- J choose a record with banjo music

- 5 The historical context of this story is important because it establishes that —

- A ten dollars was a significant amount of money
- B many immigrants were living in Fresno in 1921
- C the phonograph was invented in 1920
- D bicycles were the primary mode of transportation

- 6 Which line from the story serves as an example of sarcasm?

- F “*Did you find the ten dollars in the street perhaps?*”
- G “*Play it again, I beg of you.*”
- H “*Well, there’s another song on the other side.*”
- J “*What is the meaning of that—‘Cho-Cho-San’?*”

- 7 Mrs. Saroyan's statement about her son at the end of the story conveys —
- A why she is dissatisfied with the way Willie manages his money
 - B how she secretly wishes that Willie will become a musician
 - C why she loses her temper so easily
 - D how her understanding of her son has changed

- 8 In the first sentence of paragraph 8, the author states that Mrs. Saroyan's look suggested "an eight-ounce day." The author uses this description to —
- F foreshadow that the Saroyans will soon experience financial difficulties
 - G establish the basis for a conflict between Willie and his mother
 - H imply that Mrs. Saroyan should begin looking for a new job
 - J expose the unhealthy conditions of Mrs. Saroyan's workplace

- 9 Mrs. Saroyan is thankful that her son is not a businessman because —
- A there are enough businessmen in the family already
 - B she has grown to appreciate Willie's values
 - C she wants him to choose a career in music
 - D the business community would probably reject him

- 10 What tone does the author establish in paragraph 22?

- F Fearful
- G Sentimental
- H Mysterious
- J Humorous

- 11 The author uses Mrs. Saroyan's questions in paragraphs 9 through 19 to —

- A emphasize her displeasure with Willie's purchase
- B portray her as a hardworking woman
- C characterize her as a bitter person
- D illustrate her confusion about Willie's actions

- 12 Willie cherishes the record throughout his life because it —

- F reflects the immigrant experience in America
- G marks the beginning of his own love for music
- H symbolizes his mother's recognition of what is important to him
- J reminds him of his first job as a Postal Telegraph messenger

**Use “Letter That Changed My Life” (pp. 8–10)
to answer questions 13–23.**

13 In paragraph 2, the word *calumny* means —

- A** disappointment
- B** anecdote
- C** slander
- D** compliment

14 Before the publication of his letter, what had Smith written?

- F** A biographical essay on Yeats
- G** Poems, short stories, and part of a novel
- H** Reviews for the *New York Times Book Review*
- J** *Report from Engine Co. 82*

15 Which of these is the best summary of the article?

- A** A firefighter working at the South Bronx’s Engine Co. 82 is distracted by the amount of fires in his neighborhood. He attempts to read the newspaper and write letters, but the constant alarms make concentration impossible. He is finally able to find time to write and becomes a best-selling author.
- B** A writer of Irish ancestry believes that William Butler Yeats is one of the finest poets who has ever lived. He is convinced that the Irish poet’s reputation should be defended, so he writes a letter to the *New York Times* stating his position. The writer is excited when his letter is eventually published in the newspaper.
- C** A firefighter disagrees with an article he reads about his favorite Irish writer. His strong feelings prompt him to write a response that captures the attention of the publishing industry. He credits his eventual success as a writer to the force of emotion that drove him to write the letter.
- D** A best-selling author is interested in the poetry of William Butler Yeats. Although this author has little confidence in his own ability, he writes a book titled *Report from Engine Co. 82* and a memoir called *A Song for Mary: An Irish-American Memory*. He is surprised by his own success.

16 What angers Smith when he reads the article about Yeats?

- F** The idea that Yeats is no longer considered primarily an Irish poet
- G** The presumption that firefighters cannot appreciate the poetry of Yeats
- H** The notion that Yeats did not deserve the Nobel Prize
- J** The belief that James Joyce was a better writer than Yeats

- 17 In paragraph 8, the author uses a simile to describe —
- A the sickness he feels upon hearing the alarm
 - B the excitement he feels when he addresses his letter
 - C the fear he feels when sliding down the brass pole
 - D the relief he feels after writing the letter

- 18 It is clear from paragraphs 5 and 6 that Smith wrote his letter —

- F impulsively
- G cautiously
- H thoughtlessly
- J effortlessly

- 19 In what way is this selection ironic?

- A Smith shares the same Irish heritage as William Butler Yeats.
- B Smith's letter defending another writer is the start of his own writing career.
- C Firefighters now have a literary figure they can admire.
- D The editor publishes Smith's letter only because it is on official stationery.

- 20 Smith believes that his philosophy about writing —

- F can be applied to any pursuit
- G comes from his Irish background
- H can be replaced by education
- J helps others appreciate poetry

- 21 In paragraph 18, what does Smith mean when he advises his children to “measure the heat of the fire there”?

- A They should compare their own goals to those of their father.
- B They should pay attention to the intensity of their feelings.
- C They should use writing as a tool to change lives.
- D They should be inspired by their father's love.

- 22 The reason the author alludes to the greatness of Homer and Shakespeare in paragraph 9 is to —

- F boast about his knowledge of poetry
- G apologize for Irish writing
- H protect Yeats's reputation
- J link Yeats to other famous writers

- 23 Which line from the selection best explains the effect that the four-paragraph letter had on Smith's life?

- A *I wrote often to better control my writing skills, to master them.*
- B *I'd like to think, though, that the editor silently agreed with my thesis.*
- C *It was as if I was suddenly thrust into being someone whose views mattered.*
- D *That's what I learned the day I stood up for Ireland's greatest poet.*

Use “The Miraculous Phonograph Record” and “Letter That Changed My Life” (pp. 4–10) to answer questions 24 and 25.

24 The transformations of Mrs. Saroyan and Dennis Smith occur because of —

- F** their intense responses to art
- G** their conflicts with family members
- H** their strong ties to their heritage
- J** their willingness to change careers

25 “The Miraculous Phonograph Record” and “Letter That Changed My Life” both use a first-person point of view. In this way —

- A** the description of the conflicts is biased
- B** the reader is able to establish a close connection to the events
- C** details are omitted from the selections
- D** the reader has a clearer understanding of the complex dialogue

Use the visual representation on page 11 to answer questions 26–28.

26 The photographer chooses to photograph a formally dressed man in order to —

- F** instill an objective tone
- G** portray a feeling of patriotism
- H** impart a tone of respect
- J** symbolize another era

27 This photograph is an example of how —

- A** a picture can powerfully influence emotion and thought
- B** veterans have a strong understanding of the consequences of war
- C** travelers to Washington often visit the memorial
- D** a picture is not effective unless the entire person is visible

28 The fact that most of the names on the wall are out of focus suggests that the photographer —

- F** wants to keep most of the names private out of respect
- G** wants to emphasize the significance of the hand touching a name
- H** could not photograph all the names on the wall
- J** took this photograph to honor a specific veteran who died in Vietnam

DIRECTIONS

Answer the following questions in the space provided on the answer document.

- 29 In “The Miraculous Phonograph Record,” why does Willie keep the record for 42 years? Support your answer with evidence from the selection.
- 30 Why is “Letter That Changed My Life” a good title for this selection? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from the selection.
- 31 What is one characteristic shared by Mrs. Saroyan and Dennis Smith? Support your answer with evidence from **both** selections.

BE SURE YOU HAVE WRITTEN YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

WRITTEN COMPOSITION

Write an essay explaining how one experience can have the power to affect a person's life in a positive way.

The information in the box below will help you remember what you should think about when you write your composition.

REMEMBER—YOU SHOULD

- ☐ write about the assigned topic
- ☐ make your writing thoughtful and interesting
- ☐ make sure that each sentence you write contributes to your composition as a whole
- ☐ make sure that your ideas are clear and easy for the reader to follow
- ☐ write about your ideas in depth so that the reader is able to develop a good understanding of what you are saying
- ☐ proofread your writing to correct errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON
THE TWO LINED PAGES IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

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USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON
THE TWO LINED PAGES IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

Revising and Editing Sample

DIRECTIONS

Read the introduction and the passage that follows. Then read each question and fill in the correct answer on page 2 of your answer document.

Lydia has written this report for her U.S. history class. As part of a peer conference, you have been asked to read the report and think about what suggestions you would make. When you finish reading the report, answer the questions that follow.

The American Red Cross

(1) The American Red Cross is an organization that aids people all around the world. (2) It started as a result of the efforts of a dedicated woman. (3) That woman was named Clara Barton. (4) It was during the Civil War that Barton began the work that lead to the establishment of the American Red Cross. (5) She assisted on the battlefield by nursing injured soldiers and helping transport supplies. (6) Eventually the Government of the United States selected her to serve as superintendent of nurses for the army.

- S-1** What is the most effective way to combine sentences 2 and 3?
- A** It started as a result of the efforts of a dedicated woman, that woman was named Clara Barton.
 - B** It started as a result of the efforts of a woman who was dedicated and named Clara Barton.
 - C** It started as a result of the efforts of a dedicated woman named Clara Barton.
 - D** It started as a result of the efforts of a dedicated woman she was named Clara Barton.

- S-2** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 4?

- F** Change *was* to **is**
- G** Insert a comma after *Civil War*
- H** Change *lead* to **led**
- J** Make no change

- S-3** What change, if any, should be made in sentence 6?

- A** Change *Government* to **government**
- B** Change *selected* to **select**
- C** Change *her* to **herself**
- D** Make no change



REVISING AND EDITING

DO NOT GO ON TO THE REVISING AND EDITING SECTION.
WHEN YOU FINISH THE READING AND WRITTEN
COMPOSITION SECTION, RAISE YOUR HAND AND WAIT
FOR A TEST ADMINISTRATOR TO ASSIST YOU.



DIRECTIONS

Read the following passages and mark your answers on page 2 of your answer document. Remember that you are NOT permitted to use dictionaries or other reference materials on this section of the test.

Lauren's English teacher has asked her students to write a report about a person they admire. Lauren has chosen to write about Michael Dell, the founder of a large computer company. As part of a peer-editing conference, you have been asked to read Lauren's draft and to think about the corrections and improvements she should make. When you finish reading the report, answer the questions that follow.

A Modern-Day Legend

(1) When Michael Dell was eight years old, his parents had to discourage him from applying for his high school equivalency diploma, or GED. (2) They should have known then that their young son was a high achiever. (3) Just four year's later the boy obtained a special license and conducted a nationwide mail-order stamp auction that earned a net profit of \$2,000. (4) By the age of 13, the young entrepreneur was experiencing success in the stock market. (5) At 15 Michael Dell found his true passion when he received his first computer. (6) Fascinated by it, the teenager spent as much time taking the computer apart as he did using it.

(7) In 1983 Dell entered the University of Texas at Austin, his interest in computers led him to notice something that would change his life forever. (8) He soon had a huge assortment of computers. (9) The computer dealers around town had more personal computers in stock then they could sell. (10) Dell arranged to buy some of their surplus computers.

(11) During his spare time Dell added features to each machine. (12) He then put advertisements in local newspapers offering these computers for sale at discounted prices. (13) By the spring of 1984, the college freshman was selling

nearly \$50,000 in computers a month! (14) Dell decided to quit school, and in May 1985 he formed Dell Computer corporation. (15) Developing and selling its own brand of computer, the company experienced phenomenal success. (16) Many people believe that the corporation's achievements can be attributing to its elimination of the middleman. (17) The company made the computers sold them directly to customers, and serviced the machines when problems occurred, unlike many computer stores at the time.

(18) In 1985 Dell Computer's sales totaled \$6 million. (19) As its stock prices skyrocketed, the company became an internationally renowned giant in the computer business. (20) By the year 2000 Dell Computer had recorded \$25 billion in sales. (21) Although the high-tech industry have suffered some setbacks recently, most experts agree that the computer revolution is far from over. (22) There is little doubt that Michael Dell and his company will continue to be on the cutting edge of this industry.

32 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 1?

- F** Delete the comma after *old*
- G** Change *had* to **has**
- H** Change *discourige* to **discourage**
- J** Make no change

33 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?

- A** Change *year's* to **years**
- B** Change *obtained* to **obtains**
- C** Insert a comma after *auction*
- D** Make no change

34 The meaning of sentence 6 can be clarified by changing the first *it* to —

- F** them
- G** his passion
- H** success
- J** the machine

35 What is the most effective way to improve the organization of the second paragraph (sentences 7–10)?

- A Delete sentence 8
- B Move sentence 8 to the end of the paragraph
- C Move sentence 10 so that it follows sentence 7
- D Delete sentence 10

36 What is the most effective way to rewrite the ideas in sentence 7?

- F In 1983, when Dell entered the University of Texas at Austin, his interest in computers led him to notice something that would change his life forever.
- G Entering the University of Texas at Austin, Dell's interest in computers led him to notice something that would change his life forever in 1983.
- H In 1983 Dell entered the University of Texas at Austin, and his interest in computers led him to notice something it would change his life forever.
- J Dell entered the University of Texas at Austin, and in 1983 his interest in computers led him to notice something, and it would change his life forever.

37 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 9?

- A Change *had* to **have**
- B Change *then* to **than**
- C Change *they* to **it**
- D Make no change

38 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 14?

- F Change *decided* to **deciding**
- G Change *he* to **they**
- H Change *corporation* to **Corporation**
- J Make no change

39 What change should be made in sentence 16?

- A Change *corporation's* to **corporations'**
- B Change *attributing* to **attributed**
- C Change *elimination* to **elimanation**
- D Change *middleman* to **Middleman**

40 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 17?

- F Insert a comma after *computers*
- G Change *serviced* to **services**
- H Change *occurred* to **occured**
- J Make no change

41 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 21?

- A Change *Although* to **Since**
- B Change *have suffered* to **has suffered**
- C Change the comma after *recently* to a semicolon
- D Make no change

Brian's English teacher asked him to write a narrative about a person who overcomes a fear. Brian decided to write a story about his brother Dean. Brian wants you to read his paper and think about the corrections and improvements he should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

Climbing the Wall

(1) Dean could hear the voices from 40 feet below him.

(2) "Don't give up, Dean!" Uncle Jim shouted encouragingly. (3) "You can do it!"

(4) "Your almost there," Kurt called as he tugged on the rope that ensured his cousin's safety.

(5) Kurt and Dean had just finished helping Uncle Jim install a climbing wall at a community gym in Canterville, Texas. (6) The wall was made of concrete and crushed granite. (7) It looked just like a sandstone cliff. (8) Despite his fear of heights, Dean had volunteered to be the first to climb the new wall.

(9) Dean heard his cousin and uncle urging him on from below, but he didn't reply. (10) He was studying the last section of the thing to determine a strategy for scaling it. (11) He knew he was only a few feet from the top, but if he neglected to concentrate on and think about what he was doing, he could slip.

(12) Dean trusted Kurt to serve as his belayer, which is the person who controls a climber's safety rope. (13) While Dean climbed, Kurt took the slack out of the safety rope that was attatched at the top of the wall. (14) That way, if Dean starts to slip, he would fall only a few feet before the rope caught him.

(15) However, Dean didn't want to fall even a few feet, he was too close to his goal.

(16) As Dean clung to the rock face, calculating each move with precision, Uncle Jim and Kurt watched intently. (17) With a burst of energy, Dean climbed over the last outcropping and exuberantly shouted, “I did it!”

(18) Uncle Jim and Kurt cheered wildly. (19) Dean smiled broad and then grew quiet again. (20) Rappelling to the ground was the scariest part for him, and his uncle and cousin knew it. (21) As the others watched in anticipation, Dean consciously relaxed his tense muscles, took a deep breath, and backed over the edge. (22) In seconds he had descended more than 40 feet to the gym floor.

(23) His feet had barely hit the floor when Dean surprised Uncle Jim and Kurt by exclaiming, “I’m ready to go up again!”

42 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 4?

- F Change *Your* to *You’re*
- G Delete the comma after *there*
- H Change *cousin’s* to *cousins’*
- J Make no change

43 What is the most effective way to combine the ideas in sentences 6 and 7?

- A The wall was made of concrete and crushed granite, it looked just like a sandstone cliff.
- B The wall was made of and looked just like concrete, crushed granite, and a sandstone cliff.
- C The wall was made of concrete and crushed granite because it looked just like a sandstone cliff.
- D The wall, made of concrete and crushed granite, looked just like a sandstone cliff.

44 How can the meaning of sentence 10 be clarified?

- F Change **studying** to **looking at**
- G Delete **last**
- H Change **thing** to **artificial rock wall**
- J Change **it** to **them**

45 What change should be made in sentence 11?

- A Delete the comma after **top**
- B Change **concentrate** to **constrate**
- C Delete **and think about**
- D Change **was doing** to **is doing**

46 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 13?

- F Change **Kurt** to **he**
- G Insert a comma after **rope**
- H Change **attatched** to **attached**
- J Make no change

47 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 14?

- A Change **starts** to **started**
- B Change **he** to **they**
- C Insert a comma after **feet**
- D Make no change

48 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 15?

- F Change **didn't** to **doesn't**
- G Change the comma after **feet** to a semicolon
- H Change **too** to **to**
- J Make no change

49 Which transition should be added to the beginning of sentence 17?

- A On the other hand,
- B Therefore,
- C Finally,
- D In addition,

50 Brian wants to add this sentence to the eighth paragraph (sentences 18–22).

The last time Dean had scaled a climbing wall, it had taken 15 minutes for him to muster the courage to rappel down.

Where should this sentence be inserted?

- F At the beginning of the paragraph
- G After sentence 18
- H After sentence 20
- J After sentence 21

51 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 19?

- A Change **broad** to **broadly**
- B Insert a comma after **broad**
- C Change **grew** to **had grown**
- D Make no change

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.



